

The Calvin Ball Bulletin

District Two

April 2014 Edition

Welcome!

Spring has sprung and with the warmer weather, comes great opportunities for you to engage in during the week and on the weekends! In this edition, you will find informational programs, services and area events happening throughout our District Two community and Howard County. I will be posting updates when available to my FB page. ["Like" me](#) to stay informed or register for updates through [NotifyMeHoward](#).

Know of any upcoming events you'd like to see highlighted here? Please email me the details to cball@howardcountymd.gov.

If you are not already signed up to receive this newsletter, email "subscribe" to cball@howardcountymd.gov and I will be happy to add you to our distribution list!



Dr. Calvin Ball, District 2

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Last Call for FREE Tax Prep!



Tax season has almost concluded! For income-eligible families, MakingChange is offering FREE tax preparation assistance to those earning less than \$52k and to small sole proprietor businesses with claimed deductions less than \$10k. The VITA site, located at the **Multi-Service Center, 9900 Washington Boulevard in Laurel**, will remain open through **April 13, 2014**. For more info, call **410-880-5917** to make an appointment or visit <http://makingchangecenter.org/programs/tax-prep/>.

COUNTY CLEAN UP!

April 10th at 2 pm is the 5th Annual 20 Minute Clean-up and with County employees joining in again, we hope to make the project bigger and better than ever. Together, we can keep trash out of the environment and show that we are good neighbors in the community. How do I participate in the 20 Minute Clean-up? Get a group of co-workers together, safely pick up litter around an area of your choice, and dispose of trash using your site's regular trash and recycling pickup. When you're done with your cleanup, send an email to 20minutecleanup@howardcountymd.gov or tweet using **#HoCo20MinClean**. Be sure to let us know how many people participated and how many bags of trash/recycling were collected.

"Come Home to Howard County" Housing Fair!

This premier event targets and showcases everything individuals and families who currently live in or outside the County need to know about buying or renting a home in Howard County. The Fair, hosted on **Saturday, April 12, 2014 10am-2pm** at **Long Reach High School, 6101 Old Dobbin Ln** in Columbia, offers attendees the chance to talk one-on-one with real estate professionals, mortgage lenders and housing specialists, as well as County personnel, who will be available to answer questions about the programs and services that make Howard County such a great place to "come home to."

The Fair also feature its signature educational sessions, narrated bus tours of Howard County rental and buyer communities, and prize give-a-ways. The event is FREE and open to the public. Stay tuned to www.howardcountyhousing.com for more information about the 2014 Housing Fair and/or contact Howard County Housing's Homeownership Division at **410-313-6318**, select option 4.



Community Sports Hall of Fame Seeks Nominations!

Howard County's Department of Recreation & Parks is now seeking nominations for its "Community Sports Hall of Fame" which recognizes outstanding individuals who have gained prominence in or made substantial contributions to community recreational sports in Howard County. The deadline to nominate is Tuesday, **April 15, 2014**.

Coaches, managers, league officials, commissioners or even behind-the-scenes contributors closely identified with community recreation sports can be nominated. Nomination forms are available [online](#) or by calling **410-313-4711**. In addition to the form, nominators must provide the Committee with an essay demonstrating the nominees community sports background.

2014 Youth Police Academy!

The Howard County Police Department annually conducts a week-long residential Youth Police Academy at the James N. Robey Public Safety Training Center in Marriottsville, MD. The Academy is open to youths 15-18 years of age, with a GPA of at least 2.0, and a letter of recommendation from a faculty member. This year the Academy will run from **July 6-11, 2014**. Participants spend the week participating in law enforcement classroom instruction, practical applications and scenarios. Recruits participate in drill and ceremony, physical training, classroom instruction and practical exercises in patrol techniques, domestic violence, crime-scene processing and the execution of traffic stops. They also utilize a firearms simulator and driving simulator, receive hands-on experience administering first aid, participate in team-building exercises and enjoy a movie night.

There is no cost to the selected recruit. Applications are available at www.hcpd.org or by contacting the School Resource Officer. The deadline to apply is **April 15, 2014**. For more information, call the Youth Services Section at **410-313-2620**.

Equal Business Opportunity Open House!

Are you interested in doing business with local Government agencies, but are "Puzzled" about government procurement? Would you appreciate meeting individually with a procurement professional who can answer questions regarding current and future bid and quote opportunities? Join Procurement Professionals and representatives from Howard County Government, Howard Community College, Howard County Public School System and the Howard County Library on **Thursday, April 24, 2014 8:30am-12:30pm** at the James N. Robey Public Safety Training Center, 2200 Scott Wheeler Drive in Marriottsville, MD. Admittance is FREE; however those wishing to meet one-on-one with procurement professionals are encouraged to RSVP for a preferred session by April 17, 2014 by contacting Robin Fewell at Rfewell@howardcountymd.gov or calling **410-313-7372**. Other workshops available include: business development incentives and resources within Howard County (HC EDA), tools to develop a government-specific market strategy (MD PTAP); and navigating the defense contracting environment for small businesses (BBI).

Columbia Village Board Elections!

Make your voice heard in Columbia! The Villages of Columbia will host their annual elections and I encourage you to exercise your right to vote. Below are details in our local Village:

Village of Long Reach

Elections will be held **Saturday, April 26, 2014 9:30am-12pm**. For more details, click [here](#).

Village of Oakland Mills

Friday, April 25, 2014: deadline for receiving mail-in ballots. No business reply mail is delivered on Saturday. **Saturday, April 26, 2014, 8:30-5pm**, voting will be held at The Other Barn. For more details, click [here](#).

1st Annual KidsFest

Come experience all Howard County Recreation & Parks has to offer your children at the 1st annual Kids Fest on **April 19th from 11 am till 2 pm at Meadowbrook Park, 5001 Meadowbrook Lane, Ellicott City!** Geared towards children two to 12 years old, this exciting event features sports instruction, games, activities, arts and crafts, food and much more. The whole family is invited. Pre-registration is encouraged but not required; to register, call **410-313-7275**. Cost is \$5 per participant. For more information, contact Brian Wyman at **410-313-4705** or e-mail bwyman@howardcountymd.gov.

Columbia's 50th Birthday – Share Your Input!

As Columbia begins its preparations to celebrate its 50th birthday, Columbia and Howard County residents are invited to share their feedback on what they would like to see integrated into the festivities! Take a brief moment and share your comments [online](#).

WomenFest 2014

On **April 26th** WomenFest is back for its 6th consecutive year. Held from **10 am till 3 pm** at the **Gary J. Arthur Community Center in Glenwood, 2400 Route 97, Cooksville**, this FREE wellness event for women will feature an interactive day with free health screenings, engaging seminars and a wide array of vendors and exhibitors offering products and services geared towards promoting health, wellness, fashion and beauty, and designed to inspire women to live a more balanced, healthy and fulfilled life. Coordinated by the Department of Citizen Services's Office on Aging, this year's WomenFest will feature a keynote address and book signing by New York City-based chef, registered dietitian nutritionist and author, Jackie Newgent. For more information about WomenFest, visit the event's website at www.howardcountygaging.org/WomenFest, follow the Department's Facebook page (www.facebook.com/HoCoCitizen) or contact Courtney Barkley at 410-313-5957 or cbarkley@howardcountymd.gov.

Prescription Drug Take Back



On **April 26th from 10 am till 2 pm**, drop-off unwanted medications and drugs at police stations in Ellicott City and Scaggsville; Satellite offices in Harper's Choice, Long Reach, North Laurel, Oakland Mills, Owen Brown and Wilde Lake.

For more information or to find other locations, visit the www.dea.gov

Dedication of the Oakland Mills Little Free Library!

It's time to get excited about the dedication of the Oakland Mills Little Free Library which is a gift to the community from the Oakland Mills Board of Directors. This library is a freestanding structure that will be permanently placed in the ground and accessible to all. The library is for people to donate a book and/or take a book to read. This will be the 2nd Free Little Library in Howard County.

This special event will be held on **Saturday April 26, 2014** at approximately **1pm** at **The Other Barn** in Oakland Mills, **5851 Robert Oliver Place**. For additional details, please call **410-730-4610**.

County Initiates Stream ReLeaf Program!

Howard County residents that live within 75 feet of a stream can now apply online to receive free trees and shrubs through Howard County's Department of Recreation & Parks Stream ReLeaf program. This program is aimed at improving the water quality and wildlife habitat by creating and enhancing stream buffers – protective strips of trees, shrubs and other vegetation along the stream.

To qualify, homeowners must be able to plant the vegetation on their property within the 75 feet of a stream. Homeowners are responsible for the planting and caring of the trees and shrubs, including, but not limited to, watering and protecting them from wildlife. To apply or for more information, visit www.howardcountymd.gov/StreamReleaf.htm or contact **Megan Mills** at 410-313-6205 or email MilhMills@howardcountymd.gov. The County will assess each property to determine eligibility, planting area and the maximum number of plants which may be ordered.

Wine in the Woods!



Join us on **Saturday, May 18, 11am – 6pm** and **Sunday, May 19, 11am – 5pm** at **Symphony Woods, 5950 Symphony Woods Road, Columbia**, for Howard County's 22nd annual Wine in the Woods, as we celebrate the charm and character of an event that has aged to perfection! Wine in the Woods is now the largest wine festival in Maryland and has been voted the Best Festival in Howard County. Sample a variety of Maryland's finest wineries from a souvenir glass; purchase food from an abundance of high quality, distinctive restaurants and caterers; sharpen your palate by attending wine education seminars; purchase exceptional works of art and specialty crafts; and revel in continuous live entertainment. Cost is \$27 for those 21 years of age and older purchased in advance or \$35 at the gate, and \$20 for youth, 3 to 20 years old. While all guests are welcome to attend, this is not an event intended for children as wine is being served for which you must be of legal drinking age, 21 years and older, to taste and purchase. Consider participating in the events designated driver program and purchase a ticket at a reduced price of \$20, or sign-up to volunteer at this year's Wine in the Woods and receive a ticket and event shirt for your service. For more information or to purchase your ticket, visit www.wineinthewoods.com. The event is held in rain or shine; no pets allowed.

MD Housing Rehabilitation Program for Homeowners!

Howard County Housing is now accepting applications for the Maryland Housing Rehabilitation Program for Single Family (MHRP-SF). Applications will be available at the Housing's office on the 3rd floor of the **Gateway Building, 6751 Columbia Gateway Drive** in Columbia.

MHRP-SF is a housing rehabilitation program that preserves and improves single family properties with an emphasis on bringing eligible properties into compliance with applicable building codes and standards. It's designed to address priority home maintenance items, such as: correcting exterior or interior deficiencies; making accessibility modifications; correcting health and safety violations; improving the homes weatherization and energy conservation; and correcting lead-based paint violations. General improvements, such as small home additions, alterations and carpeting, fences and landscaping, and kitchen, bathroom and closet remodeling, may be considered for financing as well, if all priority home maintenance items are in good condition or have been previously renovated. Swimming pools and recreational facilities are considered luxury items and are not eligible for a MHRP-SF loan.

This program also provides HC Housing with the opportunity to assist eligible homeowners in securing low interest loans that cannot exceed 110% of the property's value and with an interest rate of 4.5%. Loan amounts are based upon the owner-occupants ability to repay the loan.

For more information, contact **Kelly Cimino** at **410-313-6318** and select option 4, or e-mail kcimino@howardcountymd.gov.

Bike Share Feasibility Study



Howard County's Department of Planning and Zoning (DPZ) and the Columbia Association (CA) have launched a Bike Share Feasibility Study. Supported by a Maryland Bikeshare Program Grant, they are exploring a bike share system in Howard County. In an effort to keep the public informed on the status of the study and to gather public input on topics relevant to the implementation of a bike share system, DPZ and CA have unveiled a new website about and scheduled a public meeting to discuss the study.

Through the website, www.howardcountybikeshare.com, residents and visitors can learn more about the project, including the benefits of bike sharing. The website includes an interactive map for suggesting potential station locations, as well as the opportunity for residents to provide feedback and opinions about bike share. The website will be live until mid-September.

In addition, DPZ and CA will host a public meeting on **May 1 from 7 to 9 p.m. at the Owen Brown Community Center, 6800 Cradlerock Way in Columbia**, to formally present information on the Bike Share Feasibility Study and to gather public input. More information on the meeting can be found at www.howardcountybikeshare.com.

Members needed for Commission on Disability Issues

Howard County Executive Ken Ulman is currently seeking applicants with a disability who are interested in serving on the Commission on Disability Issues. The Commission is comprised of 15 voting members who serve five-year terms each and includes people with disabilities, service providers, family members of people with disabilities and the community-at-large.

To be eligible for consideration, candidates must be Howard County residents, 18 years of age or older, have an interest in disability issues and be able to attend the Commission's meetings which are held on the fourth Monday every other month, beginning with February, from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. in the Gateway Building, 6751 Columbia Gateway Drive, Room 303 in Columbia.

Applicants should send a resume and a brief letter explaining why they want to serve on the Commission to: Howard County Government, Office of the County Executive, Attn: David Lee, 3430 Court House Drive, Ellicott City, MD 21043. The names of eligible applicants will be submitted to the County Executive for approval and then to the County Council for confirmation. **The deadline to apply is Wednesday, May 7.**

For more information on the Commission on Disability Issues visit www.howardcountymd.gov/commissionondisabilityissues.htm or call the ADA Coordinator at **410-313-6431**.

Save the Date for July 4th Festival & Fireworks



Save the Date! Join Howard Countians at the annual **July 4th Festival & Fireworks** celebration at **Columbia Lakefront, 10275 Wincopin Circle, Columbia**. The event features live entertainment on two stages, with children's entertainment on the second stage. Bring a picnic dinner or purchase food from on-site vendors as you enjoy Independence Day by the lake! Those wishing to place a blanket or sheet may do so beginning at 8:00 a.m. on Friday, July 4; whereas, those wishing to place a tarp on the grass may do so beginning that day at 3:00 p.m. Stay tuned to www.howardcountymd.gov/july4th.htm for updates (available after June 1st) and more information or contact the Department of Recreation & Parks at **410-313-4700**.

Save the Date for National Night Out

On **August 5th from 6-9 pm** come join family, friends and neighbors for the 31st annual National Night Out, celebrated for the third year at the **North Laurel Community Center, 9411 Whiskey Bottom Road, Laurel**. The evening is designed to heighten awareness of crime and drug prevention, generate support for local anti-crime programs and strengthen neighborhood spirit and police-community partnerships. The event features a live concert, Howard County Police Department displays and much more. The event is free and for all ages. For more information, call **410-313-0390**.

Homeless Gazette!

As an elected official and advocate to end homelessness, I'm thrilled to partner with the Route 1 Day Resource Center to put on the Hope for Homeless 5k. I'd like to share with you the Homeless Gazette which highlights stories and touching information from clients of the Day Center that I hope you find inspiring. I hope you will consider contributing to the Day Center and to their cause in their future. You can find the latest April 2014 edition [here](#) and view the archive editions [here](#). Here is a [list](#) of their needs if you're able to donate.

County Budget Fiscal Year 2015

The county budget is the plan that shows the sources of county money and the ways it may be expended. The county budget consists of legislation to enact the operating budget and the capital budget, which are described below, and several related bills and resolutions. The county's budget includes all taxes, fees, and other revenue sources for the county and some affiliated agencies. Expenditures may only be made as the budget allows. The County Executive presents a proposed budget to the County Council. The Council may decrease proposed expenditures, but may not increase them or change the form of the budget. The Council adopts a budget each year on or before the first day of June.

To learn more about the budget process visit our website by [clicking here](#).

To view the FY 2015 Capital Budget as proposed by the County Executive go to http://www.howardcountymd.gov/current_budget.htm.

April Budget Schedule:

Wednesday, April 16, 8:30 a.m. - Work Session - Capital Budget (DPZ and DPW Only)

Monday, April 21 - Operating Budget Due

Monday, April 21, 7:00 p.m. - County Executive's presentation of the budget.

Wednesday, April 23, 9:30 a.m. - Work Session - Capital Budget (All except DPZ, DPW, Education, Public Safety and Corrections)

Monday, April 28, 4:30 p.m. or Immediately following Legislative Work Session. - Public Hearing. (Operating for All Agencies & Capital Budget). = Education - HCC - Libraries - Public Safety - Corrections

Tuesday, April 29, 4:30 p.m. - Public Hearing, Continuation (if needed)

Wednesday, April 30, 8:30 a.m. - Work Session - Revenues and fees; Operating & Capital Budgets
Public Safety (Police, Fire) and Corrections

For the full schedule, check out the Budget Brochure at <http://cc.howardcountymd.gov/budgetbrochurefy2015.pdf>.



Calling All Youth and Teens!

Get involved and be a part of the solution. Have fun and make new friends! Columbia Association's Teen and Middle School Advisory Committee is now seeking young individuals to attend monthly meetings and help get involved in their community by planning, organizing and implementing positive programs and activities for their peers.

High School Students (Ages 13-19) and Middle School Students (Ages 11-13) are invited to call **410-992-3726** or email CATeens@ColumbiaAssociation.org to sign-up. Meetings are the third Thursday of the month 6:30-8pm at the Youth & Teen Center & The Barn in the Village of Oakland Mills, 5853 Robert Oliver Place in Columbia.

Avoid Healthcare Scams!

The Howard County Department of Citizen Services is warning both Medicare recipients and residents who qualify for health coverage through the new health care exchanges of misleading and sometimes illegal offers of help that are cropping up in Howard County. The Department has already received several reports of misleading and illegal conduct related to both Medicare open enrollment and enrollment for health coverage under the federal Affordable Care Act.

The Office on Aging's "Avoiding Medicare Scams and Frauds" fact sheet, available at www.howardcountymd.gov/avoidmedicarefraud.htm, provides info on this and other Medicare provisions designed to protect consumers from misleading sales practices. Consumers can also call the County's State Health Insurance Assistance Program (SHIP) office at **410-313-7392** to report suspicious health insurance offers and/or to receive free and unbiased help in deciding what, if any, supplemental insurance programs are right for them.

In addition, the County's Office of Consumer Affairs recently received an e-mail from an insurance agent offering to help people "obtain affordable health insurance." This e-mail, however, implied that unless consumers sign up for coverage by January 1, 2014 they will be charged a penalty. In fact, penalties will not be assessed until the end of the enrollment period on March 31, 2014. Certified navigators are prohibited from charging for their services and from offering private insurance products while helping clients enroll with an exchange.

The Office of Consumer Affairs' "Avoiding ID Theft and Fraud in the New Health Insurance Marketplace" fact sheet, available at

Exciting Youth Opportunities to Stay Active and Involved!

One of my missions is to provide awareness of programs within Howard County that provide a positive outlet for our youth. This allows them to channel their inner talent and participate in positive activities. Listed below you will find helpful links for parents and youth.

4H Club: For youth grades 3+. Meets **2nd Friday of the month** at The Other Barn **3:30-5pm**. Call **410-992-3726** for more info

Art Attack: Creative after-school enrichment program from the Columbia Art Center. Meets **1st and 2nd Mondays**.

Registration/Fees may apply. Call **410-992-3726**.

Columbia Teen Center **410-992-3726**

Howard County Library www.hclibrary.org/index.php?page=22

Voices For Change <http://hcv4c.org/> or email MMekelburg7@verizon.net

I encourage you to share this information with friends, families, neighbors and most importantly, your children.

Make a Difference in a Student's Life... A-Ok Mentors Needed!

A-OK (Assist Our Kids) Mentoring-Tutoring, Inc. is now recruiting adult volunteers to be mentor-tutors to HCPSS students who need extra support and encouragement to succeed. Volunteers meet with students individually or in small groups, during the school day and in after school programs. A-OK seeks dependable community members who can commit to one hour/week for one school year.

Participating elementary schools are: Atholton, Bryant Woods, Cradlerock, Deep Run, Forest Ridge, Guilford, Longfellow, Phelps Luck, Running Brook and Stevens Forest. There are also limited opportunities to meet with older students. For more info, call Chaya Kaplan at aokmentor@gmail.com or call **410-730-6030**.

"Your Local Career Connection" Helps in Your Search For Employment!

Howard County's Office of Workforce Development is here for you! The center is geared towards meeting the workforce and employment needs of businesses and job seekers in the 21st century labor market. They provide companies and individuals ranging from professional, technical and managerial to entry level. It offers residents a variety of tools to aid in a job search. The full service center is equipped with computers, fax machines, telephones, internet access and copiers – all to assist you with your employment search. Customized recruitment events are held for businesses and space is available to use for interviewing. For more details, click [here](#) or call **410-290-2620**. The calendar of events is [online](#).

Financial Assistance Corner

We are experiencing an unprecedented economic recession and while Howard County may be consistently identified as one of the wealthiest counties in the United States, our residents and families are feeling the squeeze of this economic crisis. I receive a lot of calls to my office asking for referrals and county assistance so I wanted to take a moment and dedicate a section in my Newsletter identifying resources to help our residents save money.

TAX CREDITS: The most quick and efficient way to reduce your expenses is to consider the tax credits available to you as Howard County residents. For your convenience, I have listed examples below as well as their respective online application; however you can find a complete list and instructions on how to apply at <http://countyofhowardmd.us/Services.aspx?id=6442458618> or by calling 410-313-4076. Please note that some of these credits are based upon fund availability, so please contact the office directly for the most up-to-date information.

Livable Home Tax Credit: <http://countyofhowardmd.us/DisplayPrimary.aspx?id=6442460435>

Senior Tax Credit: <http://countyofhowardmd.us/DisplayPrimary.aspx?id=1492>

Homeowners Tax Credit: <http://countyofhowardmd.us/DisplayPrimary.aspx?id=1558>

Homestead Tax Credit: <http://www.dat.state.md.us/sdatweb/homestead.html>

Energy Conservation Credit: <http://countyofhowardmd.us/DisplayPrimary.aspx?id=6442455147>

Daycare Provider Tax Credit: <http://countyofhowardmd.us/DisplayPrimary.aspx?id=6442460435>

Amateur Sports Athletic Fields Property Tax Credit: <http://countyofhowardmd.us/DisplayPrimary.aspx?id=6442460435>

Surviving Spouse of Fallen Law Enforcement Officer or Rescue Worker: <http://countyofhowardmd.us/DisplayPrimary.aspx?id=6442460435>

Community Associations Tax Credit: <http://countyofhowardmd.us/DisplayPrimary.aspx?id=6442460435>

Renovation of Historic Property Tax Credit: <http://countyofhowardmd.us/DisplayPrimary.aspx?id=6442460435>

Trash Collection Fee Credit: <http://countyofhowardmd.us/DisplayPrimary.aspx?id=6442460435>

Reverse Mortgage Counseling to Residents 62 and Older!

The Howard County Office on Aging, through Maryland Access Point (MAP), is offering Reverse Mortgage Counseling to Maryland residents ages 62 and older who are considering this as an option. The counseling is targeted to seniors who may be able to pay for their everyday expenses but are struggling to cover the costs of health care, home repairs and modifications, increased property taxes and other unexpected expenses.

To schedule a counseling session or learn more about the costs and features of a reverse mortgage, call MAP of Howard County's toll free number: 1-800-506-5806.

Health Care Options For You or Your Family!



The "Door to HealthCare" provides for the consolidation of applications and application processes for the numerous health programs available for those who are under/uninsured. Individuals sit down with a counselor or work alone at a kiosk to enter personal data (including: family make-up, income, etc.) which will determine the programs for which you and/or family members are eligible. The information will quickly be transferred electronically into the proper application and the process is complete. Services provided include: MCHP, MA, PAC and the Healthy Howard Health Plan.

"The Door to HealthCare" is located to the rear of 7178 Columbia Gateway Drive in Columbia, MD. For further information, call 410-988-3737 or visit <http://www.healthyhowardmd.org/door-healthcare>.

Medicare Patients – Looking for a Local Doctor!

The Medicare.gov site is the place to find information about Medicare. The webpage provides detailed information about the basics of Medicare, resources, preventative health care and much more. If you're looking for a local doctor who accepts Medicare, click [here](#). Fill in your zip code and any preferences you might have and you will instantly be given a list of providers in your area! For more info, call 1-800-MEDICARE.

Give the Gift of Independence!

Neighbor Ride launched its volunteer-based transportation service in 2004 with the mission to decrease isolation and improve the quality of life for Howard County's older residents. Today, its dedicated volunteers provide an average of 1,000 trips per month for medical appointments, shopping, social outings, personal care and business, religious services, volunteer activities and other day-to-day needs.

YOU can give seniors the gift of independence by volunteering as a Neighbor Ride driver. Flexible and rewarding daytime, evening and weekend opportunities are available. No set schedule is required. Drivers simply choose to provide rides that are convenient to their homes, offices and daily routines. Parent volunteers are welcome and encouraged to bring their children along for a wonderful experience. Please contact Patrice Cerwonka, Colleen Konstanzer or Rosemary Noble at 410-884-RIDE (7433) or email volunteer@neighborride.org for more information.

Howard County Safety... Helpful Hints!

- Experiencing an Emergency? Dial 9-1-1
- Want to report an incident, non-emergency? Call 410-313-2200
- Need to report drug activity? Call 410-290-3784 or email ACunningham@howardcountymd.gov
- Want to make an anonymous tip (e.g. child abuse, violence, gangs, gambling, school incidents, underage drinking, damage to property etc.)? Call 410-313-7867 or email GangTips@howardcountymd.gov
- Want to report gun crimes? Call 410-313-7867 or email CToler@howardcountymd.gov.
- Do you need Victim Assistance? Call 410-313-3712 or email KMasterson@howardcountymd.gov
- Interested in a FREE Home Security Survey? Call 410-313-4795 and leave a message to make an appointment. For more info, call the Special Operations Bureau at 410-313-3758 or visit <http://www.howardcountymd.gov/aboutpolice.htm>
- Want to start a Neighborhood Watch? Call the Community Services Section at 410-313-4780.
- Looking to prevent Auto Theft? Helpful tips available at <http://www.howardcountymd.gov/departments.aspx?ID=6442451452>
- Want to report an animal cruelty incidence or report unwanted pets, endangered animals, etc.? Call 410-313-2780, email animalcontrol@howardcountymd.gov or visit <http://www.howardcountymd.gov/animalcontrol.htm>
- Are speeders in your neighborhood? Consider the SMART Program initiative. Info available at www.co.ho.md.us/Police/pd_smartprogram.htm
- Interested in a Police Ride-Along? Call 410-313-2208 for an application
- Need a HCPD Spanish line? Call 410-313-7807.
- Interested in volunteering with the HCPD? Call 410-313-2255
- Interesting in HCPD Recruitment? Call 410-313-4273.

In Need of Crisis Intervention?

Grassroots is a private, non-profit agency serving Howard County and Central Maryland which empowers people in crisis to make positive changes by offering professional 24-hour crisis intervention, shelter and outreach services.

Grassroots provides programs and services including a 24-hour crisis intervention hotline, Maryland Crisis Hotline, Walk-in Counseling, Mobile Crisis Team, Suicide Prevention, outreach and education, a 33-bed Family Shelter, an 18-bed Men's Shelter, a Motel Shelter, Cold Weather Shelter and Day Resource Center.

Grassroots Crisis Intervention Center, Inc. is located at **6700 Freetown Road, Columbia, MD 21044**. For more information, please call **410-531-6006** or visit their website online at www.grassrootscrisis.org. The 24-hour line is **410-531-6677** and the MD Crisis Hotline is **1-800-422-0009**.

"Guaranteed Ride Home" Comes to Howard County!

A program that gives a **FREE** ride home to commuters who travel to work via mass transit, car-pooling or walking at least twice a week is coming to Howard County. "Guaranteed Ride Home" offers regular commuters a free ride home in a taxi or rental car up to four times a year and is funded by the Maryland Department of Transportation.

To be eligible to participate in the program, commuters must register [online](#) or call **1-800-745-RIDE (7433)**.



Start a Neighborhood Watch Program in Your Community!

The Neighborhood Watch Program involves the joint efforts of the Howard County Police Department and the community which is designed to enhance neighborhood security, heighten the community's power of observation and encourage mutual assistance and concern among neighbors.

For more information, please contact the Howard County Police Department at **410-313-2200**.

Alzheimer's Support Groups in Howard County!

Howard County proudly offers several Alzheimer's Support Groups at various locations throughout the County during days and times that are geared at accommodating the needs of those impacted by Alzheimer's. Pre-screening is required. For support group locations in Howard County, click [here](#). For more information on the Alzheimer's Association, call **1-800-272-3900** or visit www.alz.org/maryland.

Foreign Born Information and Referral Network!

The Foreign Born Information and Referral Network, **5999 Harpers Farm Road, Suite 200-E** in Columbia needs Spanish-speaking volunteers to greet clients, answer basic questions, make appointments and support the staff. Hours are **9am-1pm or 1-5pm Monday, Tuesday, Thursday or Friday**. Other times may be considered. For more information, call **410-992-1923 x 14**.

Recycling... Do's And Don'ts!

Ever wondered what is considered recyclable and what is not? You may be surprised to find out. For a complete list, click [here](#) or call **410-313-6444**. If it snows on your recycling day and recycling has been cancelled for the day, recyclables may be picked up on a slide schedule. For the most up-to-date information, call **410-313-7678** or go [online](#).

Transparency in Our Government!

If you believe there has been an instance of fraud, waste, and/or abuse in our government, we want to hear from you! Allegations of Fraud, Waste and Abuse in Howard County Government should be submitted to the Howard County Auditor's Office. All submittals are encrypted and password protected for security. We treat all allegations in a confidential matter and we'll do our very best to safeguard your identity!

To report an allegation, visit <http://cc.howardcountymd.gov/DisplayPrimary.aspx?ID=4294969242>. If you do not wish to disclose your identity, you may remain anonymous; however, you should be aware that remaining anonymous may preclude a thorough investigation of your allegation due to insufficient information.

For more information, email hcaudit@howardcountymd.gov or call **410-313-2005**.

View the Council's Current Legislation and Calendar and Stay Informed!

The County Council is responsible for adopting laws within Howard County. The legislative progress generally follows a monthly cycle. A list of upcoming meetings can be found [online](#).

I Want to Hear From You!

This is your opportunity to stay informed and get involved! Your comments are always welcome as the County Council reviews legislation. You may testify in person or simply submit your testimony by email to Councilmail@howardcountymd.gov or fax **410-313-3297**.

All legislative public hearings will take place in the **Board of Education, Board Room A, 10910 Route 108, Ellicott City, MD 21042**.

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[Email Me](#)
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"Everybody can be great...because anybody can serve. You don't have to have a college degree to serve. You don't have to make your subject and verb agree to serve. You only need a heart full of grace. A soul generated by love."

~ Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.